



## TRADITIONAL MUSIC & DANCE

Music by NYS County:

### KINGS COUNTY

Learn about traditional music and dance in Kings County

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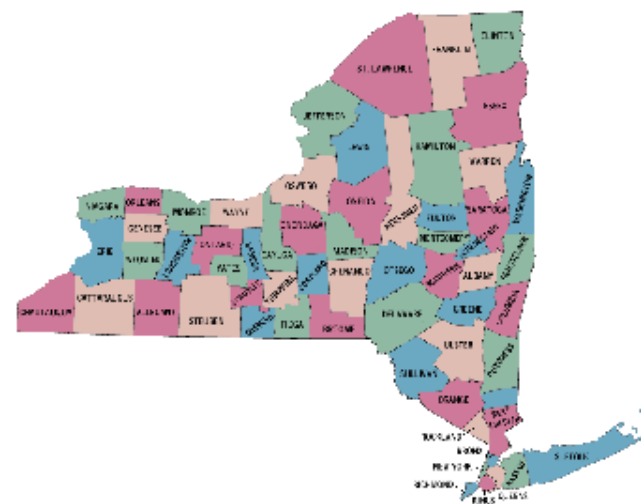
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## **FOLK ARTS & CULTURE: Traditional Music and Dance**

### **Music by New York State County**

## **Kings County**

**OVERVIEW:** Kings County by another name is Brooklyn, NY, one of the world's most diverse places in terms of its range of ethnicities and nationalities and the sheer numbers of people living together in a dense urban setting. The evolution of Brooklyn as a site of immigration began in earnest at the turn of the 20th century and continues today. Music traditions were and are central to Brooklyn's largely immigrant residents. The first to be heard were African-American, Irish, Scandinavian, Italian, Syrian, and Puerto Rican. After World War II, these were joined by Afro-Caribbean, Chinese, and Mexican, among others. Brooklyn's music culture is discovered in various sites: religious festivals such as the Italian *giglio* feast in Williamsburg; the African drum circle in Prospect Park; well-known local establishments such as Widdi Hall, a wedding hall catering to Arab communities; and clubs such as Kary's in East New York for Dominican *merengue típico* and Tarboosh in Bay Ridge for Arab music of various kinds. The Trinidadian and Caribbean communities host the annual West Indian Day Parade that attracts well over a million spectators each Labor Day. The Ashkenazi Jewish communities of Williamsburg (Hasidic) and Crown Heights (Orthodox) were joined throughout the 1990s by a large influx to the substantial Russian Jewish community around Brighton Beach, also known as Little Odessa. Brooklyn has been and continues to thrive as a major multicultural hub of settlement and transmigration.



### **COMMUNITY CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS:**

[Ifetayo Cultural Arts](#)

[Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Center for Arts and Culture](#)

[United Community Centers](#)

[Mountain Redbird Music Park Slope Bluegrass and Old Time Jamboree](#)

**MAJOR NEIGHBORHOODS:** Neighborhoods strongly connected to active, current musical culture in Brooklyn include East New York and Williamsburg (Dominican, Puerto Rican, Hassidic Jewish); Sunset Park (Chinese and Mexican); Bay Ridge (Arab); Flatbush (Haitian, Jamaican, etc.); African-American (Ft. Greene and Bedford-Stuyvesant); Bushwick (Puerto Rican); Kensington (Guyanese, Nepali); Boro Park (Hassidic and Orthodox Jewish); Midwood (Sephardic).

**POPULATION:** 2,520,000

**Foreign Born:** 38%

**MAIN ETHNIC COMMUNITIES:** African-American (35%); West Indian (11%); Puerto Rican (8%); Italian (5%); Russian (3.5%); Dominican (3.25%); Mexican 3.2%; Other Western European (3%); South American (2.6%); Sub-Saharan African (2.5%); Irish (2.1%); Eastern European (2%); Central American (2%); Arab (1.34%).

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*These traditional music & dance web pages were developed with support of New York State Music Fund, administered by the Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors. These music pages are still in development. Please enjoy and come back again, as we continue to expand this section.*

[Weeksville Heritage Center](#)  
[West Indian American Day Carnival Association, Inc.](#)

**FOLK ARTS RESOURCES:**

[Brooklyn Arts Council Folk Arts Program](#)  
[Brooklyn Public Library](#)  
[target=" blank"Brooklyn Historical Society](#)  
[CityLore](#)  
[Center for Traditional Music and Dance](#)

**MUSICIANS:**

La Troupe Makandal  
 Kalunga  
 Los Bomberos de Brooklyn  
 Andy Statman  
 James Reams and the Barnstormers  
 Great Day Chorale  
 Africussion-Percussion-Discussion  
 Simon Shaheen  
 Zafer Tawil  
 Vongku Pak

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